



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

August 21, 2003

To: Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 1548 (PAVLEY), (ITEM NO. 28, AGENDA OF AUGUST 26, 2003)

This is an updated and revised report on Item No. 28 on the August 26, 2003 Agenda, a motion by Supervisor Yaroslavsky that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to the Governor and others in Sacramento, supporting AB 1548 (Pavley), which would establish a State Office of Education and the Environment within the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), and promote environmental education for elementary and secondary school students. This item was continued from the Board's August 12, 2003 meeting.

As introduced on February 21, 2003, AB 1548 would have amended the Revenue and Taxation Code to allow California taxpayers to make contributions to a Public Library Book Fund from income taxes withheld in excess of their tax liability. The bill was amended on March 26, 2003, and approved by the Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation. The amendments were all technical and non-substantive. The bill was passed by the Assembly on May 8, 2003, by a vote of 71 to 3. The County did not take a position on this version of AB 1548.

On June 30, 2003, AB 1548 was stripped of its original language and amended to change the name of the existing Office of Integrated Environmental Education to the Office of Education and the Environment (OEE) within the Integrated Waste Management Board (IWMB), which is part of CalEPA. The bill establishes a number of requirements for the development of education principles for the environment for elementary and secondary school pupils by July 1, 2004. These education principles are to include concepts relating to environmental sustainability, water, air, energy, forestry, fish and wildlife resources, oceans, toxics and hazardous waste, integrated waste management, integrated pest management, public health and the environment, pollution prevention, resource conservation and recycling, and environmental justice.

AB 1548 requires the OEE, in cooperation with CalEPA, the Resources Agency, the State Department of Education (SDE), and the State Board of Education (SBE), to develop a model curriculum that incorporates the principles listed above. The model curriculum shall also incorporate adopted education content standards in Science, Math, English/Language Arts, and History/Social Science, and it shall be submitted to the Curriculum Development and Supplementary Materials Commission by July 1, 2005. According to an analysis prepared by staff for a July 9, 2003 Senate Committee on Education hearing, this is a departure from the method used to develop core curriculum standards, which traditionally involves a public process by a State commission made up of various stakeholders, and approved by the SBE.

AB 1548 provides no appropriation for its implementation. However, it directs the SDE to explore implementation using its baseline resources, and it establishes an Environmental Education Account to accept monies from Federal, State, local, private, and individual sources for, or from judgments earmarked for, use in implementing the bill's intent. The bill provides that the model curriculum be printed by the OEE, using funds from its administrative budget. The SDE shall make the curriculum available electronically on the Internet, again using funds budgeted for administrative costs. Also, to the extent that funds are available, the SDE shall incorporate the principles for the environment in the next cycle in which other curriculum frameworks are adopted.

The County Office of Education has informed us that it has not taken a position on AB 1548. The Department of Public Works has determined that the bill will have no direct impact on its operations; however, it is supportive of AB 1548 because effective environmental education could reduce long-term costs for environmental clean-up and pollution prevention efforts. While there is Board policy to support measures which promote the preservation and restoration of Los Angeles County mountain, bay watershed, river, and wetlands areas, there is no Board policy related to including environmental education as part of the State's curriculum. **Therefore, a position on AB 1548 is a matter for Board determination.**

On August 18, 2003, the Senate Appropriations Committee referred AB 1548 to the Suspense File. No further action on the bill has been scheduled.

According to the author's staff, supporters of AB 1548 include: Heal the Bay (sponsor), California Coastal Commission, Sierra Club, City of Hawthorne, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, Ocean Conservancy, University of Southern California Sea Grant Program, Ballona Wetlands Foundation, Santa Monica Bay Audobon Society, and others. There is no recorded opposition.

DEJ:GK

MAL:DRS:ib

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Legislative Strategist